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Annotated Bibliography: The Struggle for a Single Mother and Why?

Kevin, J. S., & Williams, R. (2010). The voices of single parent mothers who are homeless: Implications for early childhood professionals.*Early Childhood Education Journal, 38*(1), 49-55. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10643-010-0378-0>

Kevin J. Swick and Reginald Williams wrote an article over “The Voices of Single Parent Mothers Who our Homeless: Implications for Early Childhood professionals. In this article it talks about single mothers who are homeless and all the barriers they have to overcome being homeless. It talks about idea that some of them try to come up with to resolve their problems or situations they may have. This article voices out the opinions of a single mother and the influences that being a single mother has on a child, and also the barriers that it may put up between a single mother and the child. We have all heard about the struggle a single mother goes through, but how many speak of being homeless because of it.

This article touches down of the basics and random facts about how a single mother could become homeless. It discusses about how a single mother could become homeless because of different reason. It could either be because of economically, history, socially, emotionally, or educationally. It gives us an inside voices of actually women that been through homelessness. Single mothers who have loss connection with their kids because of their situation Barriers are put up between the child and a mother because of different reason it’s not only because there homeless. Other reasons a barrier could be set up because of demographics or family structure. Talking about the demographics means that some of the women were unmarried, lacked literacy skills or even suffering from chronic unemployment. When stated about family structure simply means loss of a stable home and moving from place to place. Going from one shelter or house to another can be hard not only on the mother but the child as well.

While using a source like this you can bring up many points on how being a single mother is hard. Not only is a single mother struggling but the loss of connection between a single mother and there child can be overwhelming. So not only are you facing finally needs there could be a big chance of being homeless. It’s could be a horrible situation to be homeless and have a child, some mothers might even have more than one child. This source can bring up reasons to why would should keep trying to help out single mothers.

Davies, Linda, and Prue Rains. "Single Mothers by Choice?" *Families in Society* 76.9 (1995): 543-. *ProQuest Research Library.*Web. 10 Dec. 2012. Davis L & Rains P wrote “Single mothers by choice”. The title of this article alone is pretty much self-explanatory though the struggle for being a single mother is hard you still have those few who are single not because they didn’t have a choice but because it was there choice to become a single mother. In this article both Davis and Rains interviews eight older single mothers about why they chose to be a single mother. It tells you how because these women are older and there income is stable and there education is good how it makes it possible to raise a child on their own without a “breadwinning” father.

“In marked contrast with the pathological descriptions of young unmarried mothers, the new “single mothers by choice” is presented benignly as a beneficiary of the women's movement.” This freedom of being a single mother is basically expression a woman’s independence. In a small study eight women were interviewed. One of the first questions brought up was when did they decide to have a baby on their own. The first two replied they were located in mid wife and the next responded with through a local day care. All the women who were interviewed had there kid between the ages of 28 through 60 and all except one had raised the child on their own the whole time except one who got pregnant in her first relationship. These women ended up raising a child on their own because the dad either ran out or the dad never knew. So of the mothers said that they didn’t find out they was pregnant until after the broke up with the boyfriend or husband and just decided to raise the kid on their own. Some of the mothers got pregnant not intentional but it happened and they decided from there on they would take care of the kid baby themselves no matter what problem they faced.

This article puts forth information on why mothers decide to parent by themselves, even though the struggle wasn’t a factor for them it was just the case and the odds against them. So people see single mothers as if it’s a big factor that they can’t raise a child on their own without some type of financial issue or emotional strain. Here you can point out facts that though you have some mothers who strive to have more help from the father, you do have those mothers who rather do it themselves.

Bonnie, Thornton Dill. "A Better Life for Me and My Children: Low-Income Single Mothers' Struggle for Self-Sufficiency in the Rural South." *Journal of Comparative Family Studies* 29.2 (1998): 419-28. *ProQuest Research Library.*Web. 10 Dec. 2012. Bonnie Thornton Dill did a journal entry on two rural communities in the southern United States. In this entry he talks about the goals and aspiration of about thirty-five single mothers, and most of these mothers have indeed been on some type of welfare support. They talk about the thought that was going through their head when they first found out they was pregnant. It talks about how they knew all the things there child wouldn’t be able to do because they was going to be having a low income, not only low income but they was going to be raising the child on their own.

One of the biggest issues the single mothers had was that they realize, not only did they have a responsibility but they had one for the rest of there life. They also told themselves that not only did they have a responsibility but they weren’t going to let certain things stop them like getting an education for themselves, and they wanted there kid to do the same. “Completing a college education, getting a good job, and setting an example of high aspirations and accomplishments for one's children are not part of the contemporary picture of low-income single mothers, especially Black single mothers who receive AFDC.” Though studies showed that impoverishment block more opportunities then values, aspiration, or desire does. Some of the data used in this entry was information from low income single mothers in southern rural communities. Most of these women have been on welfare. Though most of these women use some type of welfare they combine help from part time or seasonal work. They even get help from friends or somebody close of kin. Though a long range of women use education and training as a long time goal to improve their economic issue they try to get it done.

In this entry they give information about how black women struggle more. With this being the biggest portion it makes somebody to dig harder to wonder how much of a difference is it between black single mother and white single mothers.

Lee, Renee. "Figures show Struggle Worsening for Single Mothers." *McClatchy - Tribune Business News*Sep 05 2012.*ABI/INFORM Complete.*Web. 10 Dec. 2012. Renee Lee wrote an article on how figures show how struggle worsen for single mothers. In this article she gets information from a single mother’s point of view just like the previous writers. She interviews a woman names Tameka Morris, who talks about how she went back to school in 2010 to get her nursing degree in hope that this would give her a chance at a better income job. Morris graduated in May and has yet to find a job that involves her education. Many single mothers work in jobs that don’t pay much and doesn’t offer sick leave or even flexible hours.

This single mother Morris works two to three temporary jobs, and if she has a good month she makes $900. So after paying all her utilities and buying food for the house she has nothing left. That is pretty much it until next pay day and even then it’s a repeat of last time. On top of working from pay check to pay check Morris receives no public assistance. During the recession loss of homes hit a lot of people 41 percent of household held were held by single women. Studies show that most poor children live in a home of a single mother. “Low wages, limited public assistance and insufficient child care subsidies make it difficult for many single mothers to improve their lives. They are more likely than other poor people to face hardships such as food scarcity and eviction.” In June Morris utilities was cut off and her pantry was bare. She had to make a hard decision on whether she wanted to put food on the table or the utilities. Morris has three boys a 9, 6, and 1 year old. Morris luckily had some spare change that equaled up too about 15 dollars. Those 15 dollars was able to put some food on the table for her sons and she was able to pay the utilities. Morris had her first child at the age of 16 and lived with her boyfriend for 3 years. She earned her degree in health science and worked as a medical assistant. Unfortunately for Morris she had a bad car accident that left her badly injured and lost her job. Since then everything for Morris has went downhill.

So from Morris story not all single mothers started off bad, all it took was one bad thing to happen and she lost it all. Not only did she lose it all she went through it by herself and her kids. She had to struggle just to get back to being able to pay bills might as well being able to not live from paycheck to paycheck. So this makes you argue not all single mothers started off struggling.

BRENNER, ELSA. "Mothers Struggle to Manage on their Own." *New York Times*: A.1. Jun 21 1992. *National Newspapers Core.*Web. 10 Dec. 2012. Elsa Brenner wrote an article that was published in “New York Times”. Brenner also did interviews of single women that are head of a household. During interviews finance was sorted as one of the most troubling problems they face. Through this interview Brenner did get some women that stated, even though being a single mother is a struggle they still feel as if they have a lovely life and they love doing it alone.

These women in these interviews have their struggles, but though they have their struggles they still have their kids. To them in the end that is what matters to them. These women went through tough times like the pass few women having to work multiple jobs just to survive. They said caring for a child on their own wasn’t only stressful but it was physical and emotionally taxing. They couldn’t afford to be sick, because they couldn’t miss days. They hoped there kids didn’t get sick because it would be hard to afford the medical bills. “Finding affordable and reliable child care was also a major concern cited by the mothers. Some hired live-in help; some found baby sitters or had relatives who would watch the children, and others waited their turns on the long waiting lists of certified day-care centers.” Being a single mother the women stated that they realize you can’t depend on nobody but yourself.

So could a big conclusion from this be the reason many single mothers are independent? Maybe if more people heard stories about what single mothers go through more help would be put out there. With this information you can state how more single mothers get the attitude and carry the role as a father figure. Having to strive for everything you get tougher.

Fang, Hanming, et al. "Assessing the Impact of Welfare Reform on Single Mothers/Comments and Discussion." *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*.1 (2004): 1-116. *ABI/INFORM Complete; ProQuest Research Library.*Web. 10 Dec. 2012. Multiple writers got together to do research on why some single mothers have been moving up in the world a lot easier. The reason for this was because of the welfare systems. If single women didn’t have the few welfare opportunities they have no telling where they would be at today. Seeing how a lot of single mothers actually depend on welfare such as food stamps or housing from government or small monthly checks. To some families that might not mean much but to single homes especially single mothers that means a lot.

In 1996 a law was signed to change the welfare system, such as “PRWORA replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).” AFDC has actually been one of the main sources of welfare to low income families and single mothers. “Under the new TANF program, welfare participation among single mothers has dropped dramatically, from 25 percent in 1996 to 9 percent today.” At the same time with this decrease more single mother’s job employment has increased. So now the government is wondering what type of welfare should they reform?

Just because job there is a job increase in single mother homes, doesn’t mean they should take away certain welfare. Nobody knows when the economy might change back up again and things go back downhill. So what would happen if welfare took away some of the support what would happen to low income homes that need it or even that single mothers. Seeing that more and more single mothers are increasing they might need it one day.

Peden, Ann R., et al. "Negative Thinking and the Mental Health of Low-Income Single Mothers." *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* 36.4 (2004): 337-44. *ProQuest Research Library.* Web. 10 Dec. 2012. In 2000 to 2002 data was collected from single mothers who suffered depression. 205 women volunteered to do this survey. “Each woman completed a survey that included the Center for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression Scale, the Beck Depression Inventory, the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, the Crandall Cognitions Inventory, and the Everyday Stressors Index.” More than 75 percent of these women served in the mild depression range.

The purpose of this survey was too “test a conceptual model of predictors of depressive symptoms in low-income single mothers with children from 2 to 6 years of age.” More single mothers are said to most likely surfer depression more than that of a married mother. The stress from the child, family, and even money needs or boyfriend can push a single mother over the edge. Sometimes it could have a mother thinking negative thoughts about her life. During this sample there was no difference in depression symptoms between African American moms and Caucasian moms.

So because single mothers have some much stress this could push them overboard. What happens if nobody is around to stop the mom there is a possibility that she could end up killing herself of stress just from being a single mother. This could all be prevented with more help from government. Just more support in general.

Edin , Kathryn. "Social Problems." *JSTOR Home*. University of California Press, n.d. Web. 10 Dec 2012. < http://www.jstor.org/stable/3097154>. Kathyrn Edin wrote about “What does low income Single Mothers say about Marriage?” It makes you wonder what hold some of the women back from not being married again or at least starting back up a stable relationship with somebody. Maybe its multiple things, some factors might even be decided because of a pass relationship.

Edin interviewed single moms and during her interview she asked a question which could make a lot of people wonder. What do single mothers thinking of marriage? Marriage rates started going down during the 1980’s. Some women said though the feeling of having to worry about half of the bills or even supplies for the house or nice, something’s you do have to worry about. Some of the things that were said for them to stay single were domestic abuse, limited household decisions, or in some cases they have just lost all trust in men. The most fear out of them all is respect from the men that they would receive.

Between welfare, raising a child and working jobs, could men be other reason women rather struggle then be with somebody. Maybe pass relationships has put them in a bind not to trust anybody. Their pride might be too strong to let anybody in, to the point they rather put up with the hardship. So could this be added to the list on why more women are struggling?

Olcott, Lynn. “The Ballad of a Single Mother.” *Newsweek.* Newsweek, 148.13 (30 Oct. 2006): 22. Web. 30 June 2010. Copyright by Lynn Olcott. Rpt. in *Writing in the Disciplines: A Reader and Rhetoric for Academic Writers*, 7th ed. Ed. Mary Lynch Kennedy and William J. Kennedy. Boston; Pearson 2012. 446-447. Print. Lynn Olcott wrote “The Ballad of a Single Mother”, in this story it discusses the responsibilities of managing a career and also a family. This essay also talks about a single mother and how she lived with trying to balance her life with all the struggles she had to face decades ago. So is it easier now to balance both a family and a career with society today or 30 years ago?

Olcott essay is about a single mother who tells how she wasn’t able to take her kids to the doctor of things like ear infections or com home when they got sick; she had to make sure she was at work to be able to provide for them. She had to make sure they were all insured and pay for the son college. The mother youngest son is 18 years of age. Though the mother talks about how she missed a lot of moments like the first day walking or even helping her son get toilet trained. Though her child care sitter wrote notes about everything that her child did it wasn’t anything compared to actually being there. She also states how money was a problem and how she like most women was underpaid. She had to put her kids in preschool and that took up half of her salary. She does stat that the program she was with was good and had good family benefit packages.

The single mother talks about her struggle throughout her years of being a single mom and how she had to deal with being underpaid. She discusses how her salary only covered the basics and how extra things where hard on her sometimes. She even tells about how her son wanted to play soccer but she didn’t have the money, because some men realize how talented he was put forward the money and her son was able to play. What if there weren’t people or welfare, or even work benefits for women. What would they do then? It makes you realize the struggle might just get harder without them.